

A BRITON RATES AMERICA'S HIGH COMMAND

Who was the best of America's top generals in World War II?

The question will probably never be decided, but a British answer comes from London in the book, "The Turn of the Tide," an edited version of the opinions of **Lord Alanbrooke**.

As Chief of the Imperial General Staff from 1941 to 1946, Lord Alanbrooke, then known as Sir Alan F. Brooke, met many of the top U.S. commanders, studied the work of all of them.

From the vantage point of a man who helped map the Allies' global strategy throughout the war, General Brooke had this to say about **Gen. Douglas MacArthur**: "From everything I saw of him, I put him down as the greatest general of the last war."

When it came to evaluating the military merits of his U.S. "opposite number," **Gen. George C. Marshall**, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, General Brooke was more reserved.

"The more I see of him, the more I like him," General Brooke wrote after an early meeting.

Later he summed up: "There was a great charm and dignity about Marshall which could not fail to appeal to one; a big man and a very great gentleman who inspired trust but did not impress me with the ability of his brain."

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Briton's praise was tepid at best; a fact some commentators explain by pointing out that General Brooke had been promised command of the Allied forces in Europe, the post finally given to Eisenhower.

General Brooke said of the man who supplanted him: "He learnt a lot during the war, but strategy, tactics and command were never his strong points. . . .

"Where he shone was in his ability to handle Allied forces, to treat them all with strict impartiality and to get the very best out of an inter-Allied force.

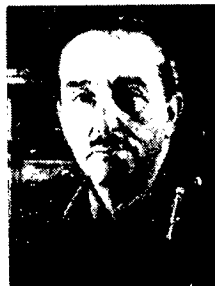
" . . . He was uncommonly well served by his Chief of Staff, [Gen.] Bedell Smith, who had far more flair for military

matters than his master."

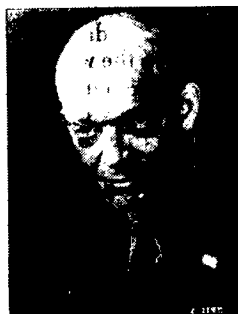
Lord Alanbrooke is said to have kept his diary as a safety valve, and British critics point out that, working closely with Sir Winston Churchill, he probably needed one.

The General wrote of Sir Winston: "He is quite the most difficult man to work with that I have ever struck, but I would not have missed the chance of working with him for anything on earth."

Now 73 and retired, Lord Alanbrooke, who comes of a titled Irish family, was known for reticence. Publication of his private thoughts may alter that view.



ALANBROOKE



EISENHOWER



MacARTHUR



MARSHALL

—Photos: B.I.S., U.P., Defense Dept.